

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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CONFIDENTIAL PRAGUE 2346

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SCUL CZ

SUBJECT: CULTURAL-SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES TALKS

REF: PRAGUE 2327 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: U.S. AND CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATIONS HELD PRODUCTIVE TALKS AUGUST 16. CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE MADE TWO MAJOR CONCESSIONS WHICH GAVE US GROUNDS FOR MOVING QUICKLY AHEAD IN NEXT SESSION AUGUST 26. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS BY NO LATER THAN OPENING OF BUSINESS AUGUST 24. END SUMMARY.

2. CZECHOSLOVAKS PROPOSED WHAT THEY TERMED "COMPROMISE" LANGUAGE ON "INDIVIDUALS" IN THE IMPLEMENTATION ARTICLE, POINT 6. THEIR TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE PARTIES WILL ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE, AS APPROPRIATE, ADDITIONAL EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION, INCLUDING THOSE OF INDIVIDUALS, WHICH WILL BE AGREED UPON BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES OR BY INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN THE FIELDS OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, CULTURE AND EDUCATION."

COMMENT: WHILE LANGUAGE PROPOSED BY CZECHOSLOVAKS EMPHASIZES AN OVERSEEING ROLE BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES AND "INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS" IT ALSO INCLUDES SPECIFIC MENTION OF "INDIVIDUALS" --A MAJOR CONCESSION BY GOC. EMBASSY TEAM IS UNANIMOUS IN CONSIDERING THAT THIS LANGUAGE IS PROBABLY THE BEST WE CAN

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GET. HOWEVER, IF DEPARTMENT DESIRES, WE COULD REITERATE OUR

INSISTENCE ON ORIGINAL FORMULATION (REF STATE 182102, PARA 1).

DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE ON THE OTHER HAND THAT CONTINUED INSISTENCE

ON THIS QUESTION MIGHT PROVE TO BE A BREAKING POINT IN THE
NEGOTIATIONS. CZECHOSLOVAKS ALSO TOLD US THAT IF WE ACCEPT FORMULATION

QUOTED ABOVE, THEY WOULD, IN TURN, ACCEPT THE IDEA OF "DESIGNATED
REPRESENTATIVE" AND DROP THEIR ADVOCACY OF A "JOINT COMMISSION"
--ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT CONCESSION.

3. AS REGARDS PREAMBLE, AMBASSADOR BYRNE GAVE CZECHO-SLOVAKS ADDITIONAL REASONING FOR INCLUSION OF "HISTORIC TIES." DR. ZEMLA OF CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE SEEMED SOMEWHAT RECEPTIVE TO OUR ARGUMENTATION, AND SAID HE WOULD CONSULT FURTHER WITH HIS SUPERIORS. COMMENT: AT THE NEXT MEETING, AUGUST 26, WE PLAN TO MAKE A STRONG PITCH FOR RETAINING "HISTORIC TIES" IN THE PREAMBLE, BUT REQUEST PRIOR APPROVAL FOR DROPPING IT IF CZECHOSLOVAKS INSIST THEY CANNOT ACCEPT IT. END COMMENT.

4. TAKING NOTE OF OUR EARLIER OBJECTION TO PHRASE "NON-INTERVENTION INTO INTERNAL AFFAIRS," ZEMLA TABLED A NEW PARAGRAPH 2:

"DESIROUS OF FACILITATING AND PROMOTING MUTUAL COOPERATION IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, CULTURE, EDUCATION AND OTHER FIELDS ON PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY, MUTUAL BENEFIT AND RESPECTING NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY."

AT THE SAME TIME ZEMLA TABLED A NEW PARAGRAPH 4:

"CONVINCED THAT SUCH COOPERATION SHOULD PROCEED WITH FULL OBSERVANCE OF THE PRINCIPLES, GOVERNING RELATIONS AMONG STATES, AS CONTAINED IN THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES IN THE FINAL ACT OF THE CSCE."

AFTER CONSULTATION, U.S. TEAM COUNTERED BY AGREEING TO RECOMMEND ADOPTION OF THE REVISED GOC PARAGRAPH 2 LANGUAGE IF THE CZECHOSLOVAKS IN RETURN WOULD DROP THEIR CLAUSE, "ACTING IN THE SPIRIT OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE CSCE"--WHICH, WE ARGUED, WAS AMBIGUOUS, AND ACCEPT U.S. PARAGRAPH 4 ON CSCE WHICH READS:

"REAFFIRMING THEIR DESIRE, IN THE INTEREST OF THEIR PEOPLES, TO CONTRIBUTE IN EUROPE TO PEACE, SECURITY, JUSTICE AND COOPERATION, AS EXPRESSED IN THE FINAL ACT OF THE CONFERENCE ON
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SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE:"
CZECHOSLOVAKS INDICATED THEY WOULD WELCOME COMPROMISE ALONG THESE LINES.

5. IN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS OVER THE PAST MONTHS, WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY PRESSED FOR A CONCISE AND BROAD STATEMENT OF THE FIELDS OF ACTIVITY TO BE COVERED BY AN AGREEMENT, RATHER THAN AN ENUMERATION OF ALL THE POSSIBLE FIELDS. DURING TODAY'S SESSION,

DR. ZEMLA ASKED UNDER WHICH HEADING COOPERATION IN "HEALTH CARE WOULD BE SUBSUMED. WE REPLIED THAT IT DID NOT MATTER TO US WHETHER SUCH COOPERATION, IF UNDERTAKEN, WOULD COME UNDER SCIENCE OR, FOR EXAMPLE, EDUCATION. WE BELIEVE THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS WILL DROP THEIR INSISTENCE ON SPECIFIC MENTION OF "HEALTH CARE, COMMUNICATION MEDIA AND SPORT" IN FAVOR OF A BROADER STATEMENT. IN ANY CASE, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR A SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR AND PROMINENT REFERENCE TO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS EXCHANGE IN A LATER ARTICLE.

6. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE TWO MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCKS WHICH HAVE HINDERED PROGRESS IN THESE TALKS TO DATE, NAMELY, DISAGREEMENT OVER SPECIFIC MENTION OF "INDIVIDUALS" AND OVER THE ISSUE OF A "JOINT COMMISSION," CAN NOW BE REMOVED. IF THESE ISSUES CAN BE PUT TO REST AT NEXT SESSION AUGUST 26, WE FORESEE ACCELERATED PROGRESS ON THE REMAINDER OF THE DRAFT. ON AUGUST 26, WE MIGHT VIRTUALLY WRAP UP NEGOTIATIONS ON PREAMBLE AND IMPLEMENTATION PARAGRAPH, AND WE EXPECT TO MOVE ON TO DISCUSSION OF ARTICLE II ON SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES. WE HAVE TENTATIVELY AGREED TO MEET ZEMLA ALSO THE FOLLOWING WEEK TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS ON ARTICLE I RE CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS BY OPENING OF BUSINESS TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, PRAGUE TIME.

7. NON-VERBATIM NOTES BEING POUCHED.
BYRNE

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